

News Advisory



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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After Years of Fighting to Save the Cornfield, Downtown LA Neighborhoods have First New Park

State Parks Prepares to Open Gates for Park Poor Neighborhood

Who: State, County and City Representatives, California State Parks, hundreds of community members and school children.

What: Grand Opening Celebration for Los Angeles State Historic Park.

- Ribbon cutting by LA Mayor Antonio Villaraigosa and California State Parks Director Ruth Coleman, followed by the pageantry of the Chinese East Wind Lion Dancers who will lead a procession to cleanse the park of evil spirits.
- The first park on the previous "Cornfield" battleground site.
- The first State Park ever developed in downtown Los Angeles, in one of the nation's most park-poor neighborhoods.
- One of the most important historical sites in all of Los Angeles, a catalyst for the rebirth of the city's historic center and the LA River greenway.

Where: Los Angeles State Historic Park, located near downtown Los Angeles, bordered by North Broadway and North Spring Streets, look for entrance gate located on North Spring.

When: Saturday, September 23, 2006, beginning at 9:30 am.

Background: This park is the result of more than a decade-long battle to stop industrial development in one of the last open parcels in downtown Los Angeles. That battle, which involved dozens of groups, lawsuits, protests and vigils, resulted in the purchase of the land by the State in December 2001, after the Friends of the Los Angeles River and other organizations organized under the moniker of Chinatown Yards Alliance and successfully challenged a proposal to turn it into a warehouse site. This community will be celebrating a David vs. Goliath type victory. ##